

#1
Gastritis



The importance of the Functions of the Stomach and the extensive dominion which it exercises over the whole animal economy render its diseases in the highest degree interesting. The office which it performs and its extended sympathies expose this viscous to a variety of disorders, and that which stands among the first in importance is Gastritis.

In the first place, it may not be improper or unconnected, to take a general view of the anatomical structure of the organ in which is seated the disease we are about to consider.

This apparently membranous sac is situated nearly transversely in the abdomen. It is of an oblong curved figure much

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larger at one extremity than the other.
The greater extremity of the stomach is
placed in the left Hypochondriac and
the smaller in the Epigastric region under
the left lobe of the liver. In the larger end
there is an orifice, through which it re-
ceives food from the Oesophagus, and this
is called Cardia. At the lower and smaller
extremity it has an aperture which com-
municates with the Duodenum, and this
is called Pylorus.

This latter foramen is surrounded by a
Circular septum formed by a fold of the
two innermost coats of the Stomach.

The body of the stomach has two Curvatures,
the greater, ~~which~~ extends downwards from
one opening to the other, and the smaller
is also between the two orifices, but above
and behind, and owing to this curved form
we find that both orifices of the Stomach

are in the epigastric region. The Stomach is composed of four coats, The external is strong and firm, formed of a reflexion of the Peritoneum by which it is connected to the Liver, Spleen, Colon, Diaphragm, and other parts. The next coat is the muscular; in contact with this we have the nervous; and the innermost and last is the villous, or fungous as it is sometimes called from the granulated appearance which it sometimes presents. This inner coat we generally find covered with a mucus which is produced by its own secretory organs. The Stomach is supplied with nerves and blood vessels like other organs of the body.

Inflammation of the Stomach has been divided by Cullen into Phlegmonous and Erythematous.

Erythematous inflammation of the stomach, is generally an attendant of

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Malignant Fever The following remarks will be confined to the consideration of the Phlegmonic species.

Various predisposing and exciting causes occasion this, as happens in other cases of inflammation. And among the chief of those which predispose to the disease, Plethora may be esteemed as exerting much influence.

The first and most powerful exciting cause, is cold applied to the surface generally, or producing local irritation by its immediate contact with the stomach, as for instance, Cold drinks, and especially ice water, drank when the body is overheated, producing effects more active and instantaneous.

Acid, stimulating, or poisonous substances swallowed, blows, overdistention from food, indigestible food, and repelled

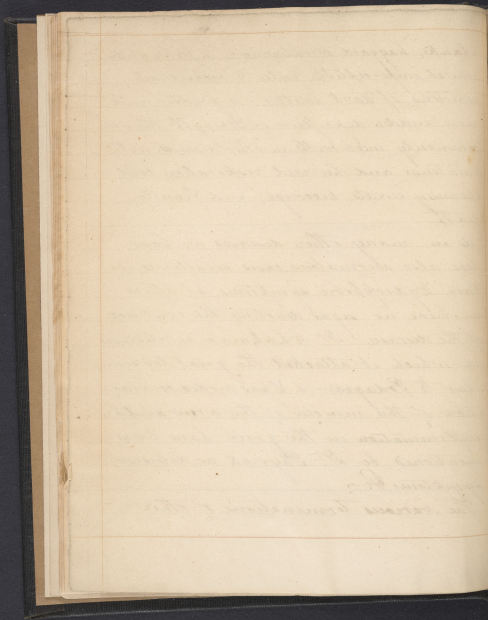
Exanthemata or Gout are also frequent exciting causes of this disease.

The disease thus produced is characterized by an acute burning pain in the region of the stomach, which is increased by the reception of any thing into it, by motion or external pressure. The pain is not in all cases confined to the Epigastric region, but in some instances extends to the false ribs, and back. There is great prostration of power, the pulse is small, hard and corded and not very quick in the commencement, great irritability of the stomach with copious vomiting - great thirst. as the disease advances the symptoms increase in violence - and there are extreme soreness, anxiety, and oppression at the Præcordia. - Obstinate Constipation, tension about the Epigastric & umbilical region - wild eye - delirium

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- lank, haggard countenance - a feeble and almost imperceptible pulse & occasionally vomiting of dark matter - a greater and more sudden depression of strength than we commonly meet with in other diseases, with faintings and hurried respiration, cold, clammy sweats, hiccough, and finally, death.

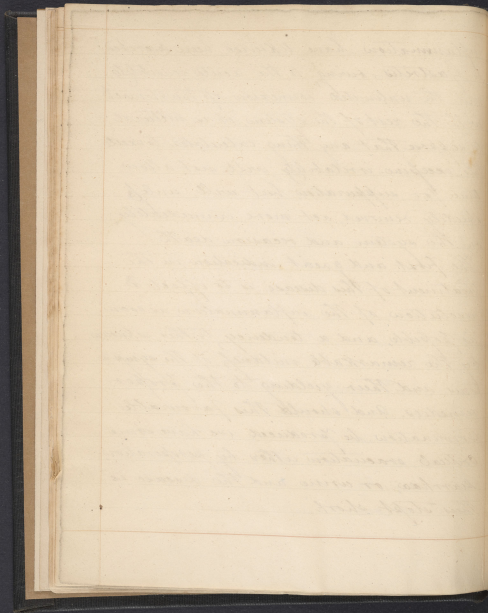
As in many other diseases we have here also anomalous cases, sometimes we have Hydrophobic symptoms, at others we have no signs denoting the existence of the disease. Dr Chapman relates cases in which it attacked the great toe similar to Podagra - & Spasmodic contraction of the muscles of the arm and an inflammation in the groin have been mentioned by Dr Physick as delusory symptoms &c.

At
The various terminations of other



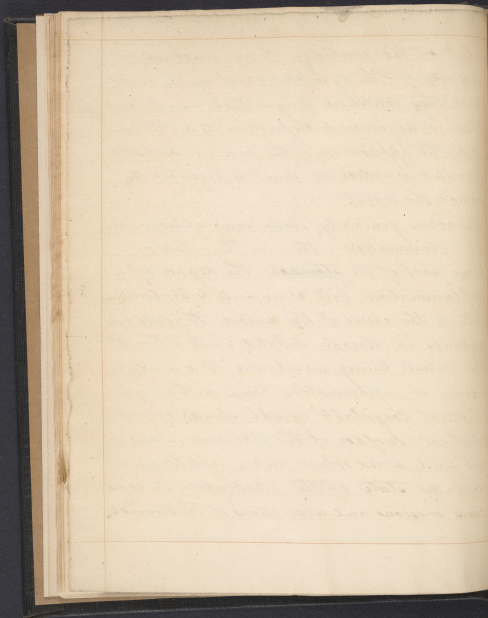
inflammation have likewise been ascribed to Gastritis, owing to the acute sensibility and the unlimited connexion of the stomach with the rest of the system, it is natural to suppose that any thing calculated to excite this excessive irritability will not allow time for suppuration but will, unless speedily removed, act more immediately on the system and occasion death.

The first and great indication in the treatment of this disease is to effect a resolution of the inflammation, as soon as possible, and a tendency to this is known by the remarkable mildness of the symptoms and their yielding to the proper remedies. And should this favourable termination be produced we have some critical evacuation either by perspiration, diarrhoea, or urine and the disease is thus stopt short.



But on the contrary if an uncommon severity of the symptoms exist in the onset, and they continue longer than usual, and there is no evident disposition to a solution after the application of the most powerful & efficient remedies, we must be prepared to expect the worst.

Dissection generally shows some appearance of inflammation either in the whole or some part of the stomach. The degree of inflammation will commonly be proportionate to the cause of the disease. It sometimes appears in streaks, stellated spots, or through the entire lining membrane there is a suffusion or inflammatory blush with an effusion of coagulable lymph spread over the internal surface of the stomach, in general we find a red color and a repleted and distended state of the bloodvessels. In some cases erosions and ulcerations of the stomach.



The principal and most conspicuous symptoms of Gastritis are so distinct and well marked that it will not probably be confounded with any other complaint; but those in which there is probably much necessity for the Practitioner to use much discrimination in distinguishing it are Colic, and Enteritis, from the first it may be known by the pain in Colic, being in the lower part of the abdomen, by the kind of pain, and by the pulses being much more full and strong, and the febrile symptoms not being so great.

The seat of the pain and its not being much increased on pressure are the principal diagnostics between this disease and Enteritis.

The great indication (as before remarked) in the treatment of Gastritis is to reduce inflammatory action, and the most

immediate and effectual means of
opening this action is Bloodletting.

A just estimate of the value of this
remedy will easily be conceived, if we
reflect that the disease is an acute in-
flammation of an organ, the most ex-
citable and delicate in its nature; and
that unless we are possessed of some such
prompt and efficient means of arresting
its progress, the patient must in a
short time fall a victim to its violence.
To obtain the fullest and most bene-
ficial results from this remedy we
must without regard to the pulse,
attack the complaint with fearless
intrepidity - taking away twenty or
thirty ounces of blood, to be repeated
in a very short time, if the indications
still continues. In a majority of cases
in which bleeding is used, its appearance

in which direction is meant to be taken
the conclusion, in a very early stage
of the process of life, to be of value
in the future, taking away from it
all the circumstances which are not
essential to the survival of the fittest
and leaving only the elements which
are necessary to the maintenance of
the individual in the struggle for
existence. The result is a very
early selection of the fittest and
the survival of the fittest is the
result of the process of life.

effect is to diminish arterial action,
~~in~~ That now under consideration
 it serves to increase and give natural
 action to the pulse, and thus, the complaint
 is developed, and from this circumstance
 we may judge of the advantage, which
 we have derived from its employment.
 Small and repeated bleedings have been
 recommended, but to this, I will merely
 observe, that we had better permit
 nature alone to relieve herself, than
 to be too sparing of our art in her
 assistance.

Topical bleeding constitutes the next
 most important measure in the treat-
 ment of this disease. - To be followed by
 a large blister over the stomach. The
 beneficial effects of blisters are more
 unequivocally displayed in no case
 than in Gastritis. But in the applications

of this remedy, there is a caution to be observed in this as in other cases, which is emphatically given by Dr Chapman "Never" says he "recor to blisters in diseases of higher grades of action, till in some degree reduced by venesection and other depleting measures". It will naturally occur to us that the blister should be applied as near the seat of the disease as possible. Fomentations may also be applied with no small degree of benefit. It is a great object from the commencement of this complaint to calm the irritation of the stomach which is so excessive, that it generally precludes the exhibition of any medicine, except those used as calatives of this symptom, at the same time it is necessary to remove costiveness, which is almost a universal attendant; and to effect this we must resort to Emata, used frequently and in large

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The country here is a very fertile
valley in the middle of the
mountains. The soil is very rich
and the climate is very healthy.
The people here are very
industrious and the
country is very beautiful.
The mountains are very high
and the valleys are very fertile.
The people here are very
kind and the country is very
beautiful. The mountains are
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is very beautiful.

quantities, composed of the mildest articles.
To allay the irritability of the stomach
we must appeal to the usual remedies,
as lime-water & milk - the effervescent
draught, in small and repeated doses. The
warm bath, hot fomentations and ano-
-dyne injections. After the stomach is in
a condition to retain the proper remedies
for the purpose, it is necessary to evacuate
the alimentary canal. And here we should
have recourse to Calomel, as it appears
peculiarly adapted to the case, on account
of its being retained when almost every
other medicine would be rejected.

Epsom salts appear also to be admirably
suited to the same view, and in many
cases in which Calomel has failed, the
most beneficial results may be obtained
from the use of the Epsom salts.

Thirst which is usually very great

should be alleviated by the mildest fluids, given frequently, and in small quantities, as, Gold balm tea - seltzer water &c Milk has been recommended and Dr Chapman speaks well of a solution of Siquorce in cases of this nature.

Diet when necessary for the support of strength, should be regulated on the same principle, - it should be light, being of the most simple nature, as, Demulcent drinks &c

In the last stage of this disease we find it necessary to support and invigorate the system. And here the most active and diffusible stimuli are indicated, and among the most useful is the Spirit of Capentive employed externally and internally, and opium. Is there every thing else Calculated to meet the same indication should be added.

In the convalescence the utmost care is necessary to prevent a relapse, the diet should be simple and of the most digestible articles. Stimulants of every description are to be scrupulously avoided, And without particularly guard ~~against~~ patients against taking cold, by making them wear flannel if the weather requires it, and especially by ~~protecting~~ the feet.

Our resources in the treatment of Gastritis are much limited and unless it is subverted in its onset by the most energetic depletory measures, our utmost exertions will prove unsuccessful. If on the contrary we have, in the commencement of its rapid career, assailed it with our most efficient resources, our efforts in a majority of cases will be attended with that reward, of all others the most

pleasing to the Physician, the recovery
of his Patient.

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#1
A dissertation
on
Gastritis
by
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In presence of the Professors

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